

Stocktaking

(By Mrs. Alfred Watt)

The Stockholm Conference in June will end our first three years of trial and there we shall review our position, take stock of our assets, consider a constitution and plan our activities, including how we, as countrywomen, can help to lift the depression that hangs over the world's countryside.

I believe the reason for our success is we have found exactly the way countrywomen and homemakers in all countries can work happily together. I believe that we have evolved a new conception in international relationship.

How is this so? In my own opinion an important reason is that we have embodied in a larger way the principles which have made countrywomen's and homemakers' societies so universally commendable and important in many countries. These are entire independence of each constituent and local body; perfect equality of each society within the larger body; equality of privilege and equality of responsibility; and the realization of the essential part played by mutual understanding, help and friendliness.

The next factor is that we are able to keep in constant touch with our Societies, by means of circularizing the full Committee minutes to all Committee members, whether in South Africa or Norway, sending out broadcast large numbers of the monthly leaflet, "Links of Friendship," and allowing (with very great advantage) the attendance of proxies and frequent visitors to the Committee meetings.

I would next like to emphasize what seems to me to be almost our keynote, namely, that our policy, perhaps at first unconsciously, has been not to build up a big central organization, but to strengthen in every way open to us the development of each of our Societies in its own country. I look forward to the time when the stronger will be increasingly able to help the weaker sisters in practical as well as sympathetic friendship.

I must reckon, too, among our great advantages the contributions and active help of our individual subscribers, who, it is likely, will soon be giving us in annual subscriptions as large a sum as the Societies, and the Foundation Friends, whose money and goodwill have enabled us to start an Endowment Fund.

Last, but not at all least, there is the active part taken by the Committee members in London. I am convinced that no other Committee ever gave up so much time to Committee work between meetings—raising funds, doing office work, serving on Sub-Committees, travelling about speaking on our work—in innumerable ways the Committee members have undoubtedly given great service.

International Committee

Most of our members are aware that an International Committee known as the Liaison Committee of Rural Homemakers' organizations, with headquarters at 26 Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1, England, has been a strong factor in creating a splendid spirit of international goodwill through the countrywomen's organizations in some 28 countries with 38 nationally organized rural women's assistance. We have pleasure in presenting a message from Mrs. Watt, as taken from the "Links of Friendship," a leaflet which is issued once a month and sent to the leaders in the work throughout many lands.

THE FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO

Lorne Park, Ontario
May 2, 1933.

To Officers of Women's Institutes,

Dear Madam:

Your Provincial Board has great pleasure in extending greetings to the Women's Institutes and congratulating them upon the record of achievement as evidenced in the splendid reports presented at the conventions held last fall, and the encouraging reports which have come to hand since. We are particularly appreciative of the splendid service rendered by the individual branches in looking after the needy in the immediate community, and in addition many branches responded to appeals from other centres, especially the north country, to which 140 have forwarded bales containing clothing, bedding, layettes, etc. Many letters of appreciation have been received, giving assurance that the service has been well worth while. The goods distributed could not be given a money valuation equivalent to the alleviation of suffering or want.

The members of the board have been instructed to attend district annual meetings in their respective subdivisions where this is possible and each will have a message of real value to present and some problems of vital interest to the Institutes as a whole will be submitted.

That the Branches may know who is representing them on the Provincial Board we are giving herewith a list of officers and directors:

OFFICERS FOR 1932-33

Honorary Presidents — Mrs. Geo. A. Putnam, Superintendent of Women's Institutes, Toronto; Mrs. A. E. Walker, Bartonville.

President—Mrs. R. B. Colloton, Lorne Park.

Vice-Presidents—Mrs. H. M. Dierlam, Ripley; Mrs. A. D. McDougall, Maxville; Miss E. P. Gibson, Bar River.

Executive—President, Vice-Presidents, Miss Nettie Keddy, R. R. No. 1, Hensall; Mrs. Fred. Hamm, R. R. No. 2, Bath; Mrs. E. Secord, R. R. No. 2, St. Catharines; Mrs. I. Graves, Scarborough Junction; Mrs. Wm. Raymond, New Liskeard.

Corresponding Secretary—Treasury and Recording Secretary — Miss M. V. Powell, Whitby.

DIRECTORS

Subdivision No. 1. Mrs. A. D. McDougall, Maxville—Dundas, Stormont, Grenville, Glengarry.

Subdivision No. 2. Mrs. J. K. Kelly, Almonte—Carleton, Lanark, Renfrew, Russell.

Subdivision No. 3. Mrs. Fred Hamm, R. R. No. 2, Bath—Addington, Lennox, Brockville, Leeds, Frontenac.

Subdivision No. 4. Mrs. W. C. Haggarty, Jr., Cherry Valley—Hastings, Prince Edward, Northumberland.

Subdivision No. 5. Mrs. J. R. Cooper, Orono—Durham, Haliburton, Peterborough, Victoria.

Subdivision No. 6. Mrs. I. Graves, Scarborough Junction—Ontario, York.

Subdivision No. 7—Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater—Simcoe.

Subdivision No. 8. Mrs. Thomas Frizzell, Bognor—Dufferin, Grey.

Subdivision No. 9. Mrs. J. A. Carleton, 166 Wilton Rd., Guelph—Halton, Peel, Wellington.

Subdivision No. 10. Mrs. E. Secord, R. R. No. 2, St. Catharines—Lincoln, Welland, Wentworth.

Subdivision No. 11. Mrs. T. B. McKim, Lynedoch—Haldimand, Brant, Norfolk.

Subdivision No. 12. Mrs. W. H. Patterson, 46 Glen Morris St., Galt—Waterloo, Oxford, Middlesex East, Perth South.

Subdivision No. 13. Mrs. John Fleming, R. R. No. 5, Chatham—Elgin, Essex, Kent.

Subdivision No. 14. Miss Nettie Keddy, R. R. No. 1, Hensall—Huron South, Lambton, Middlesex North and West.

Subdivision No. 15. Mrs. H. M. Dierlam, Ripley—Bruce, Huron East and West.

Subdivision No. 16. Mrs. S. F. Bice—Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound.

Subdivision No. 17. Mrs. Wm. Raymond, New Liskeard—Temiskaming, Cochrane.

Subdivision No. 18. Miss E. P. Gibson, Bar River—Algoma, Manitoulin, St. Joseph Island.

Subdivision No. 19. Mrs. Wm. Grattan, Port Arthur—Thunder Bay.

Subdivision No. 20. Mrs. J. McCoombs, Kenora—Kenora Rainy River.

BOARD MEETINGS

Space will permit only a brief reference to some of the more important matters dealt with at the Board meetings held last fall and during Easter Week. The Members of the Board will be furnished with particulars which will enable them to answer questions regarding the finances of the Federation at the district annuals. We may state that the finances of the Federation are in a fairly healthy condition, although nearly all the balance on hand at the close of the year was required to pay expenses of Federation Representatives in attending conventions, the directors in attending Board meeting, and the regular allotments by the Federation to the various convention areas.

The following persons were appointed as officially representing the Women's Institutes in negotiating with the organizations and associations named: League of Nations—Mrs. J. K. Kelly, Almonte; Home and School Association—Mrs. A. D. McDougall, Maxville; Red Cross Society—Mrs. I. Graves, Scarborough Junction; Girl Guide Association—Mrs. E. Secord, R. R. No. 2, St. Catharines; Prohibition Union—Mrs. J. W. Stone, Bond Head; Royal Winter Fair—Mrs. R. B. Colloton, Lorne Park and Miss M. V. Powell, Whitby; National Council of Women—Mrs. R. B. Colloton, Lorne Park, and Mrs. W. R. Lang, Toronto; Social Hygiene Council—Mrs. R. B. Colloton, Lorne Park, and Miss E. Appelbe, Box 451, Georgetown.

Provision has been made to advise with the Travelling Libraries in securing books of special value to Women's Institute members.

The district officers are urged to have the district annuals meet early in the day, especially the district directors, thus giving an opportunity to discuss ways and means of extending the organization to new centres and to give some assistance and encouragement to the Institutes requiring the same.

A keen appreciation was expressed to the retiring President, Mrs. Walker, for the splendid leadership given during her three years as President.

FINANCES

The contributions by many of the branches during the past year have been most liberal, some districts reporting every branch paying 15c. per member. If the Institutes would all con-

tribute, say even 10c. per member, it will enable the Federation to carry on most effectively and to co-operate with the Department in publishing several copies of "Home and Country" throughout the year.

A resolution regarding the placing of the finances of the Federation upon a more definite basis will be submitted to the district annual meetings. We trust that the branches will be as liberal as possible in their contributions to the Federation, keeping in mind the needs of their respective communities. It must be left to the good judgment of the individual branch as to what their contributions will be this year.

GOOD PROGRAMMES

We are pleased to note a growing and increased interest in the programme for rural women, as evidenced by the organization of a number of branches throughout Ontario during the past year, showing that the practical, educational and social work of the organization is meeting with the approval of homemakers generally.

Each year seems to add fresh inspiration to the activities of the branches, and the women generally are more and more realizing the value of the services available from the Institutes Branch, which aid in raising the standard of home and community life and thus make a very definite contribution to national advancement.

May we emphasize the value of individual effort in making the organization of still greater value through faith in the work, faith in oneself and a united effort by Department, Provincial Board and individual branches working together for a definite object, the betterment of humanity, through efficiency on the part of the homemaker and homekeeper.

SERVICES OF BOARD

A question which is sometimes asked is "what purpose is served by having a Federated Board and what does the general membership get that was not available previous to its inception?"

The Board bears the expense of bringing together a body of representative women elected by the members themselves from every section of the Province for full discussion of business and problems not only common to all but also those peculiar to their respective sections. These contacts, with their varied points of view, are a great stimulus to the members themselves, who in their turn carry the enthusiasm aroused and the fresh viewpoints gained back to their areas to arouse fresh enthusiasm and interest there. This steady and ever increasing interest in the provincial wide aspect of our work has been one of the very noticeable results of the Federation.

The Provincial Federation is in its turn a unit in the Dominion Federation, which is again a unit in the world wide Federation of Country Women's Associations. Without its Federation, Ontario, the birthplace of the W. I., which has been taken for an example by these women all over the world, would not only fail to take her place with all her sister provinces in the Dominion Federation but would alone fail to be a member of this great international organization of rural women, surely an almost inconceivable situation.

The Board also deals with many appeals which concern the Institutes but not the Department, and which must therefore be decided by the Institutes' official body.

Then a few of the more tangible benefits are briefly:

Grants towards financing the various conventions.

Payment of expenses of Federation Representatives to Conventions and of Board members to their District Annuals as well as to Board meetings.

Co-operating with the Department by contributing toward the expenses of common undertakings such as freight on relief parcels and shipments, issuing this Home and Country News Bulletin, preparing W. I. exhibits, etc., for W. I. wing of Women's Building at C. N. E., preparing Ontario exhibits for the "Ottawa" Exhibition in New Zealand, etc.

Financing and furnishing song sheets and branches and conventions, also financing the "Supplement to a Handy Guide to the Laws of Ontario."

Contributing to support of Dominion and World Federations and this year toward the expenses of sending a representative to the approaching world wide convention to be held in Stockholm.

Financing Life Membership pins now available under the same conditions as Life Membership Certificates, at an additional cost of \$1.35, postpaid, on application to Institutes Branch, Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

Also innumerable similar and smaller services.

And last, but not least, the Board is prepared at all times to deal with questions of local, provincial or national importance; and to place such, if advisable, before the proper authorities. It would like to point out, however, that the initiative in such matters lies largely with the individual branches, districts and convention areas. The Board is their mouthpiece and armed with their mandate is ready to approach the Government or other authority in a vigorous effort to acquire desired changes in existing conditions.

RADIO PROGRAMME

We are pleased indeed to announce that the first Radio "Mothers' Meeting" will be presented through the courtesy of Colonel the Honourable Thos. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario on Monday, May 15th, between two and three in the afternoon, as their contribution to Mother's Day.

Mrs. R. B. Colloton, President, will open the meeting. Colonel Kennedy will express greetings to the mothers of Ontario, followed by Mr. Geo. A. Putnam, Superintendent of Institutes.

A complete discussion of each phase of Maternal Welfare will be presented by Honourable Doctor Robb, Ontario Minister of Health, in his address on "Ontario Motherhood," by Doctor Bell, Deputy Minister of Health, by Miss Edna Moore, Director of Public Health Nurses of Ontario on "Education for Motherhood," and by Doctor Phair, Ontario Director Maternal and Child Hygiene on "Safety and Motherhood."

Musical selections will be provided by the successful Women's Institute chorus in Peel County Musical Festival.

The programme has been arranged by Mrs. W. F. Parsons, Convener of Public Health and Child Welfare, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Port Credit, Ontario.

With the co-operation of the branch and district officers we can look forward with confidence to most profitable branch, district and convention area gatherings.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. R. B. Colloton, President,
Miss M. V. Powell, Secretary-Treasurer,
Whitby.